

4. OWNERSHIP AND PROOF OF NONPROFIT STATUS

Does the applicant own this historic property or collection?

XX Yes No

If the applicant does not own this property, attach a letter explaining the relationship between the owner and the applicant and the authority under which the applicant will be the grantee of record to undertake work on the property or collection. The letter must be on the owner's letterhead and must be signed by the owner's authorizing official.

If the applicant is not a Federal agency, proof of nonprofit or government status must be attached to this application.

- A copy of the Federal IRS letter indicating the applicant's eligibility for nonprofit status under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.
- An official document identifying the applicant as a unit of state, tribal, or local government or other tax-exempt multipurpose organization. If prepared specifically for this application, the certification must be on the parent organization letterhead and certified by an official of the parent organization.

Please note – A letter of sales tax exemption is not acceptable as proof of nonprofit status.

5. DOCUMENTATION

A minimum of four (4), 4"x6" or larger black and white or color photographs must accompany the original and each copy of the application. Photographs must include views of the historic property (showing entire building/property) or collection and views specifically documenting the threat or damage to the property or collection. Photographs must be labeled. Photocopies and photographs submitted electronically will not be accepted. Photographs will not be returned. **Please note:** Submission of **printed** digital photographs will not disqualify an application; however, photographs of lesser quality could affect reviewers' evaluation of an application.

6. PROJECT SUMMARY

In the space below, **briefly** summarize the proposed project. Discuss the national significance of the historic property or collection, its current condition, the nature of the threat, the proposed preservation and/or conservation work, and the project's public benefit. One continuation sheet may be attached; however, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide brief, concise narratives.

Fort Jackson is one of the oldest and best preserved of the masonry forts constructed in Louisiana and played a pivotal role in the Civil War. Presently, this historic gem, along with its collection of artifacts, is in danger of being lost. Located in rural Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, Fort Jackson was greatly impacted by first Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, and then Rita in September. This historic fort, built in 1822, along with its museum and artifacts, was under water for eight (8) weeks. FEMA personnel, along with volunteers from the National Park Service, were able to enter the fort in November to assess the museum collection, recover the artifacts and inventory the collection. Most of the artifacts were recovered, however all were covered with saltwater, mud with many heavily corroded. Estimates for the stabilization of the collection were prepared by Al Levitan, Conservator with the Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia and total \$132,000. An emergency grant in the amount of \$30,000 was obtained from the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) to begin the stabilization process.

The overall purpose of this grant request is the salvage and protection of this historic collection. The first phase of the project proposes funding for the completion of stabilization and restoration of the collection. In order to ensure the protection of the collection upon completion of restoration, waterproof glass cases will be purchased for their display, to include removable drawers enabling the collection to be relocated to a safe location in the event of another natural disaster. Dehumidifiers will also be purchased in order to protect the items from the humid climate of South Louisiana. The preservation of this collection is extremely important as it provides an important and irreplaceable record of our past, which needs to be preserved and interpreted to foster a better understanding of the cultural history of Plaquemines Parish and the State of Louisiana.

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (30 POINTS)

Applications for collections or historic properties not meeting this criterion will receive no further consideration. Complete either section A or section B, as appropriate.

A. HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The historic property will be considered to be nationally significant according to the definition of "National Significance" outlined on page 3 of the Guidelines and Application Instructions if it meets one of the following criteria. **Check the applicable criterion and complete item "c".**

- a) _____ **Designated as a National Historic Landmark or located within and contributing to a historic district that is designated as a National Historic Landmark District. (20 – 30 POINTS)**
- b) _____ **Listed in the National Register of Historic Places for national significance or located within and contributing to a historic district that is listed in the National Register for its national significance. (UP TO 25 POINTS)** Please note that properties can be listed in the National Register for significance at the local, state, or national level; most properties are not listed for national significance. The level of significance can be found in Section 3 – State/Federal Agency Certification of the property's approved National Register nomination. Contact your State Historic Preservation Office if you have questions about the level of significance or do not have a copy of the approved nomination.
- c) Explain the reasons why the property is nationally significant. One continuation sheet may be attached; however, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide brief, concise narratives.

7. NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

B. COLLECTIONS

In the space below, describe the collection and document the national historical, artistic, scientific and / or cultural significance of the collection using the definition of "National Significance" outlined on page 3 of the Guidelines and Application Instructions. The description and documentation must be clear to individuals not familiar with the collection. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide brief, concise narratives.

Fort Jackson, including its collection of artifacts, is a very valuable historic landmark rich in significance to our nation's history. Located on the Mississippi River approximately sixty (60) miles south of New Orleans in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, the Fort was built between 1822 and 1832. Designated as a Registered National Historic Landmark in 1961, the Parish owns and operates the fort as an open park and historic museum.

The primary mission of Fort Jackson over the course of its military career was its role as defender of the Mississippi River from foreign invasion. The most significant historic event for Fort Jackson was the Civil War battle in April 1862 when Union Flag Officer David Farragut attacked the fort and continued upriver in a daring attack to capture New Orleans. The failure of Fort Jackson to hold the Union fleet resulted in the loss of New Orleans, the largest city of the Confederacy. After the battle, the fort's significance does not end. Occupied by Union troops, Fort Jackson became a defensive work, a prison and a training ground all at the same time. Starting in 1862, Fort Jackson became a training station for some of the first African-American soldiers in the U.S., with their continuous presences at the fort into the 1870's.

The collection of artifacts specifically addressed in this proposal are comprised predominantly of artifacts excavated at the fort. It includes rifles, swords, pistols, and various other artillery, along with rare buckles and leather goods, all primarily from the Civil War era. These archeological artifacts form a tangible link to the history of the fort, Plaquemines Parish and the state of Louisiana. The damage caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita to the fort and the artifacts threatens to sever this link. The preservation of the collection is vital to promote cultural education, enhance heritage tourism and promote this part of the state's unique authentic culture. *(See attached correspondence from State of Louisiana, Division of Archeology.)*

8. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Additional sheets may be attached; however, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide brief, concise narratives.

A. WHAT IS THE THREAT TO THE HISTORIC PROPERTY OR COLLECTION? (25 POINTS)

Describe the current condition of the collection or historic property and explain how it is threatened or endangered. The source(s), nature, extent, and severity of the threat, danger or damage to the collection or historic property must be clearly and convincingly argued.

The immediate threat to the collection is its current deteriorating condition as a direct result of the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The collection lay under water for eight weeks, covered with salt water mud. The artifacts have been washed, but the metal artifacts (which comprise approximately 75% of the collection) are actively corroding due to their immersion in salt water and the adverse environmental condition to which they have been subjected. The artifacts are currently being housed in a warehouse, which is not climate controlled, which can compound the damage already inflicted. Without immediate attention to their stabilization the collection will be lost.

Stabilization and restoration alone however are not the only danger to the collection. Due to its geographic location on the southern tip of Louisiana, Fort Jackson is extremely susceptible to the effects of hurricanes and tropical storms. Once the preservation phase is completed, it is imperative that a secure, climate controlled site for these artifacts is provided, along with the ability to easily remove this collection to a safe site in the event of a future natural disaster. This can be accomplished through the purchase of the proposed display cases and dehumidifiers.

7. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Additional sheets may be attached; however, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide brief, concise narratives.

B. WHAT WORK WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THIS GRANT AND HOW WILL IT MITIGATE THE THREAT TO THE HISTORIC PROPERTY OR COLLECTION? (25 POINTS)

Projects must substantially mitigate or eliminate the threat, danger, or damage described in Section A and must have a clear public benefit (for example, historic places open for visitation or collections available for public viewing or scholarly research). The following points must be addressed:

- Describe the key project activities and products to be supported by this grant and the non-Federal match.
- Describe how the work will significantly diminish or eliminate the threat, danger, or damage to the historic property or collection.
- Explain any pre-project planning or research, such as Historic Structures Reports or Collection Condition Assessments, on which project decisions are based.
- List the key personnel undertaking the work and briefly describe their qualifications. If personnel have not been selected, briefly describe the qualifications you will require. (Please note: Do not send vitae. Consultants must be selected competitively.)
- Describe how the project will have a clear public benefit.
- Explain how your organization will ensure continued maintenance of the historic property or collection in the context of your organization-wide preservation or conservation activities.
- On a separate sheet, provide a timeline for project completion, including each major activity with a schedule for its completion and its cost. Projects must be completed within the grant period, which is generally 2 to 3 years.

The proposed key project activities include the following:

1. Transportation of collection to conservator for stabilization. *The collection will be transported by Parish personnel to the conservator, anticipated to be located at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Travel expenses reflect the moving of the collection;*
2. Stabilization and restoration of collection by conservator. *Stabilization and preservation activities will be provided by a professional conservator meeting AIC guidelines. These costs are reflected in the Construction/Conservation line item;*
3. Consultation with Louisiana Division of Archaeology. *Guidance and consultation in regards to the preservation and protection of the artifacts will be provided to the Parish by the Collections Manager of the Division of Archaeology, these costs are reflected in Consultant Fees budget line item;*
4. Purchase of waterproof glass cases, with removable drawers, for display. *Costs for cases are included in the Equipment line item;*
5. Purchase of dehumidifiers to be placed in museum with display cases; *Costs for dehumidifiers are included in the Equipment line item; and*
6. Return of the collection to Fort Jackson museum. *Travel expenses reflect the moving of the collection.*

Upon completion of the work items listed above, the collection will have been stabilized and returned to pre-Katrina condition, as well as a safe environment for housing and display of the artifacts will have been obtained. Additionally, a mechanism for the safekeeping of the collection in the event of future natural disasters will have been provided, i.e. removable display case drawers for immediate relocation to safety of the collection.

The project decisions laid out in this proposal are based on the reports and recommendations by FEMA, through Katherine S. Zeringue, Collection Specialist and Alan Levitan, Conservator for the National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center for Conservation. An itemized inventory of the objects, condition and associated conservation costs were prepared by FEMA. Consultation has also been ongoing with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Division of Archaeology.

All conservation work will be undertaken under the supervision of professional conservator, whose selection will be based on AIC guidelines. In addition, consultation by the Collections Manager of the State of Louisiana Division of Archaeology will be provided throughout the project. The project will be under the direction of Plaquemines Parish Director of Tourism.

The archaeological artifacts of Fort Jackson form a tangible link for the public to the history of the fort, Plaquemines Parish, and the state of Louisiana. Their preservation is in the public interest, and will be of great public benefit, as it is vital to promote cultural education, enhance heritage tourism and promote this part of the state's unique authentic culture. This incredible archaeological asset is an important and irreplaceable record of our past, which needs to be preserved and interpreted to foster a better understanding of our history.

Plaquemines Parish will continue to own and operate Fort Jackson, including the museum and its collection. One of the basic elements of this proposal directly addresses the Parish's future maintenance and protection of this collection through the procurement of waterproof glass cases, with the ability to easily remove the collection to safekeeping in the event of an emergency, and dehumidifiers to aid in climate control of the museum. In addition, as Plaquemines Parish begins rebuilding every aspect of its community after the devastating effects of the 2005 hurricane season, the preservation and maintenance of Fort Jackson remains as a priority for both the government and its citizenry.